

WAIS into the Future

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Where Are We?

Why Are We Here?

- **Publishing is exploding**
- **Information access opens doors**
- **Global communication is moving past paper**
 - **faster, cheaper, more inclusive**

Where Are We Going?

- **Federal information sharing**
 - **Library of Congress, USGS, NASA, EPA, DOE, Intelligence, etc.**
- **Commercial publishers**
- **Many vendors and integrators**

Fun Developments

- **Multiple languages**
- **Multimedia**
- **Developing countries participation**
- **Standards based**
- **Copyright issues are being solved,
electronic billing**
- **Enhanced security systems**

So What?

- **Information:**
 - **Cheap** (1 penny per copy)
 - **Fast** (A book in 10 seconds)
 - **Global** (40 countries online now)
 - **Personal** (See what YOU want to see)
- **Why? WAIS is a standard without opponents**
- **US is leading in this frontier**